



STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
301 CENTENNIAL MALL SOUTH • PO BOX 94987 • LINCOLN, NE 68509

*Vocational Rehabilitation
3335 West Capital Avenue
Grand Island, NE 68803
October 14, 2003~10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.*

Present: Curry, Hahn, Hultine, Gieschen, Grone, Kolb, Lloyd, Newman, Nolan Brown, Rasmussen, Rocker, Schultz, Vavrina

Absent: Bloechle, Christensen, Ham, Jelinek, LittleBeaver, Shepard

- I. Public Comment
- II. Approval of Agenda
 - A. VIII A and VIII C are being postponed
 - B. Motion to approve agenda as amended made by Vavrina and seconded by Nolan Brown-Motion approved
- III. Approval of minutes from August 19, 2003
 - A. Pg 2 #5 \$500,000
 - B. Date on headers incorrect
 - C. Motion to approve by Gieschen-seconded by Schultz – motion approved
- IV. Introduction of new members (*Michelle Hultine*)
- V. Director's Report
- VI. Director's Report
 - A. 1. **New VR Publication for Employers.** Partnering with Employers is a new publication that recognizes 14 employers who have a partnership with Voc Rehab. The publication will be sent to SRC members and distributed to employers as a marketing tool for Voc Rehab.
 - 2. **Ticket to Work Marketing Campaign.** Public Service ads are now on television promoting the Ticket to Work program. The Disability Hotline is a call center for questions.
 - 3. **Columbus Office Move.** The Columbus office has moved to the Columbus Area Family Resource Center at 3020 18th Street. The Community college, Workforce Development Center, State Patrol, a food pantry and other community support services are located at the resource center or will be moving in the near future.

4. State Budget. We are submitting an interim year budget request. We took a six percent cut in state funds for FY2004. Every state dollar cut will lose \$3.69 in federal funds. In 2004 we will lose 1.2 million dollars. In 2005 we will lose \$1,050,000. Most of the funding reduction will come from the purchase of community services. In the FY2005 budget request we are asking for about \$252,000 to restore the loss of FY2004 state funds and \$225,000 to restore the FY2005 state funds. If the state funds are restored we will receive about \$931,000 in federal FY2004 dollars \$830,000 in federal FY2005 dollars. The total increase in state and federal funds during FY2004 and FY2005 will be about \$2,238,000.

It's difficult to know when we will run out of case service dollars. I would guess about April or May of 2004. If the budget reduction is restored on July 1, 2004 we would be able to match all of the FY2004 federal funds. Once these federal funds are matched they can be carried over to federal FY2005 where they can be spent as needed. Fortunately, we do not have to spend the funds "in a hurry."

Michelle entertained motion that Frank develop a one page fact sheet on the positive aspects of restoring these funds so council members can inform their State Senator. Frank agreed to provide a fact sheet. Tim entertains motion- We're looking at having a legislative coffee on SILC, and it can be a very useful information center for legislators to learn something about the way things really are and how things work.

5. State Staff Training. The training will be in Kearney Nov 13 and 14. Council members are welcome, just let us know. Sessions planned include presentation diversity and cultural competency, job placement and development, career planning with behavioral health consumers, and motivational interviewing. This event is federally funded and the money cannot be used for any other purpose.

6. DOL Grants. We did not receive the DOL Transition Grant. Based on Nebraska's long standing work in Transition we felt we could have utilized this grant to build on the good work that has been done by NDE, Special Education and Voc Rehab.

However, we did get the DOL Work Incentives grant. Mark is setting up employer assistive technology resource centers in the Omaha, Lincoln, and Grand Island One-Stop Centers as a result of the grant. This will help employers understand what Assistive Technology accommodations are plausible in the workplace. Most of the funding will support the Assistive Technology portion of the grant. Additionally, three Voc Rehab staff who have been going to these three center on an itinerary basis will now work half time in the centers. These staff members are Faye Clark in Omaha, Roger Glawatz in Lincoln, and Ernie Thayer in Grand Island. Part of their role will be to help one-stop staff work more effectively with people who experience a disability. We'll be meeting with these people next week to discuss what they will be doing specifically.

7. Nebraska Transition Summit in Grand Island. On 10-17-03 Jack Shepard and I will be presenting at the Summit concerning Voc Rehab's role in transition. Recent publications and future plans will be presented.

8. Front End Process. Most of the staff training for the Front End Process has been completed. Training on the Career Planning Discussion, will be held between 10-22-03 and 12-11-03 in our five case service areas. The purpose of the Career Planning discussion is to help the consumer decide on an employment goal and identify resources needed to be successfully employed.

Beginning in January 2004, Voc Rehab associates will also receive training regarding their role in the Front End Process. These training events will be developed and provided in conjunction with RCEP VII at the University of Missouri.

Exploring the World of Work is another Front End Process training event planned for early next year. It will developed in conjunction with the Department of Labor and will include a blend of training on O'Net, NAIC, Career Compass, and Code Connector for SOC codes.

9. Back End Process Update. The committee is developing placement standards and will be presenting at the leadership meeting this week. More information will be presented to the SRC in future council meetings.

10. Learning Disability Improvements. We're exploring possibility of LD screening tool to use at One Stops and in the Voc Rehab offices. I don't know how well we do here, particularly with adults. I will contact Jim Kohler who works with University of Missouri Medical Center to talk about evaluating and developing vocational plans for people with LD.

11. IPE Annual Review. The IEP Annual Review and other key milestone events are being build into QUEST the Voc Rehab data system. The system enhancements will greatly improve our timely follow-up and documentation of these important milestone events. The timelines will remind staff about federal timeframes for Eligibility Determination, Vocational Planning and IPE Approval, Annual Review, Employment Outcomes, and Follow-up at 170 days (6 months) and 280 days (9 months).

12. Quality Employment Solutions. We have developed a newsletter featuring success stories around the state. It should be coming out this week and will be sent to SRC members. It is available by subscription through the Voc Rehab external web-site. Sarah Herrera is doing an excellent job in interviewing consumers and writing about their journey to success. The stories are written with the full consent of each consumer. This four-page publication will be printed monthly.

VII. Old Business

A. Ticket to Work (*Don Crouch*)

Work incentives to encourage people to return to work. We're concentrating on ticket because Nov. 1, people receiving SSI, SSDI will begin to receive tickets in the mail. We have been trying to decide how this will work. But to VR it means that we have to have clients tickets assigned to us before we can be reimbursed. We are training staff. Their roles: help clients understand program, their choice of Employment Network, make sure person got the ticket, and make sure we actually have the ticket assigned to us. When information is received, Quest will automatically show counselors which clients are receiving benefits. There will also be a new 'to do' button that helps counselors remember to cover all of their bases. It's very complex but we're trying to keep it as simple as possible. So far, only one half of 1 percent of tickets in other states have been assigned. They are trying to get a lot of public information out there to increase return. The other things to address are the Employment Networks. Right now there are Western Vocational Services, Service Linc, DD in Nebraska City, Grand Island Goodwill. There are some national ENs that can come into Nebraska and provide services. Any entity in Nebraska can become an EN if they wish to provide employment services in Nebraska. There is an application process to verify legitimacy. We are asking that clients who have tickets and wish to work with VR, assign their tickets to us. We are assuming that they will do this. Using the ticket is entirely voluntary, however. Once a client assigns a ticket, they will no longer have the continuing disability reviews. This is the main incentive for clients. Frank- There needs to be more discussion about reimbursement methods. Don- Two major fallacies are clients feeling that this ticket automatically ensures them employment, and ENs wanting to do this when they don't realize how much they will need to achieve with these clients before they receive any money at all.

B. Annual Report Timelines (*Michelle Hultine*)

1. Committee reports are due by October 31, 2003.

VIII. Reports

A. Committee Reports

New members: Gail Hahn – Interagency; Susan Rocker- Strategic Issues; Michael Newman – Client service delivery

Client Services – Judy presented draft report of placement committee.

Talked about standards and best practice with clients looking for job.

Committee supports fully. What they're doing is great. Committee

suggested Employment Warranty Mon. changes- follow up via e-mail

Interagency – Annual reports- chair people need to do dissertation about their committees. Need by the end of October. (Email Jack and Sandy)

WE will continue to use last year's layout. Not very many content

changes. Any suggestions-email Sarah. Customer relations survey-640

sent out- 42% return-really great. Goal of survey-Customer feedback

(referral sources for VR) Answers also summarized in report. Would like

this survey to be an agenda item in the future. Would like this report to go

to the 640 people we sent out to in the first place. Response is overwhelmingly positive but there are some concerns that need to be addressed. Lots of positive comments about specific people-maybe we could send a letter to those people to say thank you from the committee. We would like better response from certain agencies.

Strategic Issues- 5 areas to improve: Maintain current level of services (budget); transition; self employment; One Stop collaboration; faith based initiatives. (transportation and mentoring.)

B. CAP Report (*Vicki Rasmussen*)

The cap report was distributed with the meeting materials. The council had no questions regarding the report. Vicki stated she is meeting with the Program Directors quarterly regarding the CAP cases she receives. This will give her an opportunity to present to VR any concerns or issues that are being reported through CAP cases. CAP is also partnering with the Medicaid Infra Structure Grant being the first call for Ticket to Work questions. The CAP report will consist of completed cases only.

C. SILC Report (*Tim Kolb*)

We have just hired Kathy Howell of Bellevue. We had 23 resumes submitted and instant screening took us down to 10 interviews. We selected Kathy at 215 Centennial Mall South #520. We are also trying to write the new State Plan. It's a cooperative effort. Recommendations for things that need to be included in the plan are due 10-6-03. NCBVI?

D. ATP Report (*Mark Schultz*)

(handout) ATP will be sending out a questionnaire to One Stops that will assist in identifying the kinds of equipment to purchase for the Equipment Loan Pool for use by employers and WIA partners. ATP has received a telework grant from RSA to create a low interest loan program for persons with disabilities who want to work from home or a remote location. The loans may be used for accommodations at home to create an office space, equipment and computer purchases. The federal funds of \$430,000 will require \$48,000 of state match (which still needs to be raised). ATP will be approaching private resources for assistance in providing the required match. ATP also received an award to create another low interest loan program for assistive devices, purchase of adapted vehicles, and environmental modifications for individuals with disabilities. This grant requires a 3-1 match and the \$633,000 federal dollars will require a match of \$211,000. ATP has one year to come up with the match

IX. New Business

A. HIPPA Regulations

1. This agenda item was postponed until the next meeting.

B. Amend Bylaws (*Michelle Hultine*)

We need to be able to vote in new officers at a different time of year.

(Don) Operational Procedures in your notebook, pg 3 section D- Numbers 1-2-3 say that during the first meeting of the year we'll elect officers.

What we've done is suspend the bylaws so we can vote in officers at the last meeting of the year. We could change all 'first meeting of the years'

to last meeting. Elieen Curry motioned in favor. Mark seconded. (The first meeting of the year is based on the federal fiscal year schedule.) This motion will be voted on in the next meeting.

C. Hotline Presentation (*Vicki Rasmussen*)

1. This agenda item was postponed until the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn – Kris Nolan Brown moves-Merwyn Vavrina seconded.